

The Newman Chronicle

Interesting Miscellanea

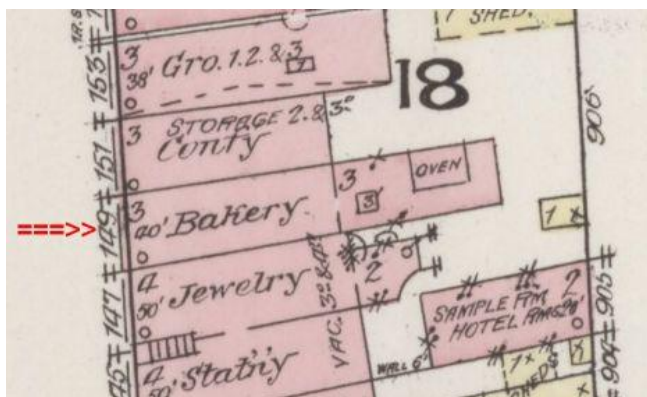
The Adventures of Glass Man Dan

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ANLNjdd0noNZipQcPTKrw/videos>

Submitted by Donna Newman

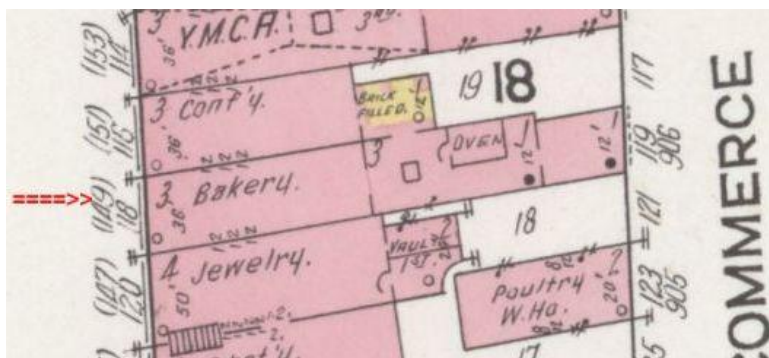
Dan is a friend who decided to move his glass-blowing business from Minneapolis, Minnesota to Galena, Illinois a couple of years ago. He purchased a building in downtown Galena and has been videotaping its renovation. What an adventure *that* has been. Dan knew it was built in 1855 and had been occupied by a bakery most of the time since.

On a lark, I offered to research its history, and tracking his progress along with mine was an adventure in itself. Using Bureau of Land Management records, county deed books, local news items, city directories and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, I traced the lot from its original owner, who sold it in 1835, down to the Hennings family, who operated a bakery there through the early 1940s. In about 1900, the street address changed when Main St. was divided into North and South, so 149 Main St. became 118 S. Main St.



1885 Sanborn Fire Insurance map

An 1884 news item reported that Conrad Henning had installed a "new patent oven which is heated with coke" in his bakery at 149 Main St., which explains the blackened joists Dan found where the oven had been (it wasn't the *huge* oven he removed in his video, that was installed in 1960 per records he tracked down).



1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

Conrad's son Albert inherited the business and a 1906 news item reported that he had added an extension, so it now fronted on 118 S. Main St. and backed up to Commerce St. This is the building that Dan bought.

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Historical photos

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This photo from a history of Galena depicts Main Street in about 1844

This photo was taken circa 1900 from North Main St. looking south.



Then and Now photos of 114 S. Main, two doors down from Dan



The YMCA was on the 1912 Sanborn map



Also on "Galena Feb 2020" video (0:25 mark)